THE MANUFACTORIES OF TROY.

ALBANY IRON WORKS AT TROY. While in Troy we visited the great Iron Manufactonot in the vicinity, one of which is the most perfectly arranged in this country. One of the partners in this establishment, some three or four years since, made tour through England, Scotland and Wales, for the special purpose of examining all the great iron mills Thoroughly trained as an iron master, and prepared to appreciate every improvement in machinery, furnaces, &c., he had blended the results of his observation of the British Iron Mills into a plan, in his estimation the gan ideal of an iron manufactory. He had no thought being so soon allowed the opportunity to carry hi plan into effect, but very singularly it so happened that the very day he landed in New-York the rolling mill in Troy was burned down. With incredible dis patch he proceeded to build a new mill, in which should be executed the plan already alluded to. The building itself is brick, and is 365 feet by 145, which with a projection on one side covers nearly or quite one acre and a quarter of ground. One great object was to secure all the motive power needed by using the waste heat of the puddling and heating furnaces This is secured by placing boilers in such a position that the waste heat passes under them, and the steam thus generated is conducted by pipes to the different cogines in the building. In this way ample steam is obtained without cost of fuel for five engines, the aggregate power of which is 250 horse. There are 29 addling and heating furnaces, so arranged as to furish room for the workmen without wasting room, (a common fault in rolling-mils,) and yet allow free and easy access to the different stands of rolls, which occupy the center of the building lengthwise. The balls as they come from the puddling furnace, are first flung into Winslow's Rotary Squeezer, an instrume which has met with favor in England as well as this country. Thence they are passed through huge rolls which crush them into rough bars. These are cut into regular lengths, which are faccosted, and again hested to welding heat and rolled out into the larger

we have one of the most beautiful, if not the most beautiful Rolling Mill in America. South of this is a new brick mill nearly completed in the form of a cross-the length of one section of the cross being 173 feet, and that of the transverse etion 163 feet; the width of each section is 53 a large train of rolls, the rotary squeezer, a machine-shop with lathes, &c. Here, as in the large mill, the waste heat of the furnaces produces steam to drive an engine of 150 horse power. The roof is supported by ion truss-work, and is covered with slate. In these two mills the raw material is converted into the various sizes and kinds of wrought iron for axles, nails, spikes, roilroad chairs, and the general assortment of bariron; and the capacity of these mills to convert pig metal will be inferred from the aggregate products the establishment.

sizes of iron, or the single pieces are rolled separately

into the smaller sizes of merchant iron. Taking all

these furnaces and stands of rolls under one roof-sup-

ported by beautiful but immensely strong truss-work

At the north end of the large mill are the furnaces. hammers, lathes, &c. for making car-axles, one of the nost interesting departments of the business. As we remarked in reference to the manufacture of carwheels, every one who travels on our railroads has a practical interest in the strength and toughness of the axles. We had a practical illustration of this the other day, on the New-Jersey road. Our train was rushing along at the rate of 35 or 40 miles an hour, when an axle under the mail car gave way. On wheel flew out as if shot from a mortar, and the other dropped down flat, with the end of the axle pressed through the bottom of the car. Fortunately the wheel dropped e- 'he rail and slid along. Had it sought among the fies, at the speed we were going, we must have been wrecked. One feels in such a eituation the force of a remark made once in our hear-"The manufacturer of car-azles needs to have

a quick conscience in his business." In the mill we are describing scientific knowledge, the best raw material, best scrap-iron, and the most skillful workmanship are employed to make axles. The scrap-iron is already converted into wrought iron. This scrap is faggeted and rolled into flat bars. These bars are cut and again faggoted in bundles of sufficient weight to make an axle of each bundle. Having beer Shoated to welding heat, it is drawn down under the rolls and hammered to the requisite size. Every prosess to the iron, and it is a curious fact that before pigiron becomes convertel into axles it has passed through at least five processes, so that the iron when hus converted is regarded as perfect as any made in sterest to all who ride in cars. The axles made here re reputed-so we are informed by an experienced tr-manufacturer-to be equal to the best made in is country and to be equal to any of British manu-

The two mills thus briefly described are driven en rely by steam produced from waste heat without cost

A few rods above these mills we come to the original stablishment, driven by water-power, and now divided ate four departments. The first is a Rolling Mill, 165 feet by 110, with three trains of rolls for spring steel, nail-rods, sheet iron, nail plates, and the smaller sizes of merchant iron. Connected with this is a steel farnace and smith-shop. Six heating furnaces supply the trains of rolls. Immediately above this is an Axle Factory for mak

ing wagon and carriage axles, crowbars, steel sleighshoes, &c. It is a brick building, 80 feet by 40, three

Above this is the Nail Factory, 150 feet by 35, in which are 55 mail machines, producing annually some

50,000 kegs of nails and employing 75 men.

The Spike Factory is the last in the list, and i 150 feet by 40, has ton machines for making 150 tailroad spikes, three rivet machines, and produces probably 4,000 tuns of spikes and rivets a year.

All the buildings are of brick and covered by either its of slate roofs, most of which are supported by iron russ-work very beautiful to look at, and very eco-

nomical in the saving of room. in comparing the present mammoth establishmen with its beginnings under John Brinkerhoff in 1809, We see vast enlargement, and also wonderful improve neuts in the various branches of the business. Thus, a 1809 Brinkerhoff, a prominent iron merchant in Albany, imported Russia and Swedos iron, which he had rolled into plates for nails. These plates were

tet into nails by machines, but the heads of the nails were made by hand. It is said that nails by mathinery were here made before any other place in the The different items going to make up the business the cetablishment make an imposing aggregate. 18,000 tens of coal—two thirds of which are bituminous—are consumed here per year, and probably from 20,000 to

25,000 tuns of pig iron, smelted on the Lehigh, the Delaware and Lake Champlain, and not a small part of the best pig iron from the Salsbury (Conn.) Mines, melted with charcoal. In all the departments 50 then find constant employment, so that a population of ever 2,000 persons derive their support from wages here paid out. The amount of wages is near \$200,000 a year, or \$16,000 a month. The mills produce of the arious kinds of iron about 15,000 tuns a year, worth market nearly; or quite \$1,000,000.

We have never seen the superior of these mills, esscially the two we first described, in their economical trangement of furnaces and machinery, so as to waste so room and yet allow every branch of labor ample space. All the mills cover an area of two acres and a last. Halfa million of capital is invested in the business, and it may be justly ranked as one of the first in this Statry. When the new mill is put in operation, which will be soon, the annual produce of the works will be pretty increased.

ROTHSCHILDS AND THEIR WEALTH.

The following are extracts from a letter lately re seived at the Department of State from Frankfort sur

Maine, dated the 13th of December; Maine, dated the 13th of December;

"There died in this city, on the 6th inst., at the age of eighty-two years, five months and twenty-four days, Baron Amschel Mayer von Rothschild, Privy Counsellor of the Duke of Hesse Darmstadt, Privy Finance Counsellor of the Elector of Hesse-Cassel, Privy Commercial Counsellor of the King of Prussia, Consul at Frankfort for the King of Bavaria, Consul-General for the Duchy of Parma, Commander and Knight of several high orders, and chief and senior of the celebrated banking firm of M. A. Rothschild & Sons of Frankfort-on-the-Maine.

"The decease of Baron Rothschild is still the topic of conversation in the city. I dare say that, in a long

of conversation in the city. I dare say that, in a long series of years, no event has created so great a sensation and so much attracted the attention of the whole tion and so much attracted the attention of the whole population as the decease of this person. He was rendered popular not only by his social position and vast wealth, but by his personal appearance and habits. There was scarcely a man in Frankfort to whom the 'Old Rothschild' (as the people called him) was not known. Every day, when entering or leaving his banking-house, he was surrounded by a crowd of poor. His willingness to give and the good humor with which he distributed his benefits were never disturbed by the importunities of these turbulent assemblages.

"Baron Rothschild was popular with all classes, be-cause his benevolence extended to all distinctions of

political and religious parties.

"He was a rigid observer of all the requirements of

his faith, to such a degree that at the sumptuous feasts to which he was invited, or which he gave at his own prepared according to the Jewish mode; and neither sickness nor inclemency of the weather was able to restrain him from the performance of his religious duties and ceremonies. He belonged to the orthodox faction of the Jewish community, but his benefits extended to all alike.

"I have seen a list of yearly distributions made for the account of Baron Rothschild from which it are

"I have seen a list or yearly distributions made for the account of Baron Rothschild, from which it ap-pears that not less than 2,600 Christian families had profited by his bounty. The weekly 'distribution' for his account amounted to at least 50,000 florins per year, and probably an equal sum was sent abroad for the relief of the indigent. Besides these gifts, he con-

the relief of the indigent. Besides these gifts, he contributed to all public institutions of charity—as well as for art, literature, and the like.

"While his liberality toward his fellow-citizens afforded them a constant relief, his own personal habits were extremely simple. With such great wealth, favored with the friendship and esteem of Sovereigns, loaded with honors and distinctions, Baron Rothechild never forgot the origin of so exalted a position. The humble cottage in the dark and narrow street (called the 'street of the Jews') in which he and his brothers were born was visited by him daily during the lifetime of his mother, who could never be persuaded to exof his mother, who could never be persuaded to ex-change that humble habitation for any of the sumptu-ous palaces offered to her by the love and veneration of her sons.

her sons.

Baron Rothschild was no less kind and affection ate toward his family at large. He was married for more than 50 years, but had no children. His wife died in 1848, and his affections have been devoted to

He was the eldest of five brothers, and outlived them all, with the exception of one, (Baron James Rothschild, of Paris.) Two of them (Charles and Solomon) died in the course of last year.

"At another time I may extend this notice of the personal character of Baron Rothschild, and give some details concerning his capacity for business, of the skill, perseverance and good luck which enabled the Rothschilds to extend all over the world their name and influence; to form a banking establishment whose wealth and importance have been unparalleled to the present time, and can scarcely be superseded by their

"The fortune left by Baron Amschel Mayer von Rothschild is estimated at over sixty millions of flerius; that left by Baron Charles at seventeen millions, and by Baron Solomon at forty-eight millions of florins.

"The will of Baron Rothsohild was made in 1849.
The charitable bequests are much less important than the benevolence exercised by him during a long course of years had prepared people to expect. Among other items of the will are the following.

Ploring.

Workmen...
For various Christian charitable institutious....
To pay for Jewish service in his dwelling (as heretofore) s tephew Maria Charles, son of Charles...

"To a second son of Charles William be gave his To a second son of Charles without no gave and gardens. The domains and properties possessed by the deceased in different countries are likewise distributed among the different branches of the Rothschilds, so that the greater bulk of this large fortune remains in the family.

"The most pleasing fea ure in the disposition made of this property is the provision to continue for yet the

"The most pleasing feature in the disposition made of this property is the provision to continue forever the weekly distribution of alms at the 'Rothschild old 'house in the street of the Jews.' This cannot fail to be an incalculable benefit to the poor of Frankfort.

"The funeral of Baron Rothschild took place on Sunday last, according to the simple and modest custom of the Jewish religion. The body was followed by his family, the attendants and friends of the bouse.

by his family, the attendants and friends of the house, by more than one thousand persons of all classes and religions, and by some one hundred and fifty equipages. The ministers of the Protestant Church also attended the funeral. Their senior, the Dean Frederick, expressed publicly to Baron James Rothschild, the thanks of the community for all the benefits bestowed on it by the deceased. In raphy, Baron James again that of the community for all the benefits bestowed on it by the deceased. In reply, Baron James said that so long as the family of Rothschild continued to exist, the peer of Frankfort should constantly enjoy their solic-itude."

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FARMERS' CLUB. TUESDAY, Feb. 5.—Notwithstanding the intensely olde weather, there was a fair attendance upon the regular meeting of the Club to-day. The most interesting subject brought forward, and one, too, that exesting subject brought forward, and one, too, that excited great attention, was the astounding facts elicited in the reading of the following Report upon Breckenridge Cool.—Addisors D. Fark, one of the Managers of the recent Twenty-ninth Annual Fair of the American Institute, called upon the Cool.

the Managers of the recent Twenty-ninth Annual Fair of the American Institute, called upon the Corresponding Secretary and Agent, Mr. Leonard, for a Report on this subject, made by Mr. John Thompson, Treasurer of the Breckenridge Cannel Ceal Company, to the American Institute. The Report gives the appointment by the Government of Kentucky of Commissioners to examine and report, and a Charter of the Company by that State, of Feb. 9, 1854, and a Report of Benjamin Silliman, jr., George D. Prentice, and Bryan R. Young, the Commissioners. By full examination of the quantity of this very peculiar Coal, it appears to lie under at least four thousand acres of land of the Company, and to be of about (the measure) three feet thickness for the whole territory, with a bituminous lie under at least four thousand acres of land of the Company, and to be of about (the measure) three feet thickness for the whole territory, with a bituminous shale lying under it. The Coal is covered by a well-disposed cover of sand-stone, forming a solid, level roof. This Coal resembles jet; does not sell anything; can be made into ornaments; contains only eight per cent ashes, and contains the following proportions of matter: volatile matter (gas), 63.52; carbon, in coke, 27.16; water, 7.77. It is improperly called Cannel Coal. It burns as readily as pine wood, and burns long. It is known to be capable of yielding benzole (gas), a resinous matter, in the proportion of twenty gallons per tun. This benzole dissolves India-rabber and guita percha. The benzole evaporates and leaves the rubbur perfect. Each tun of this Coal contains, in addition to the benzole, 28 gallons of illuminaring oil, or kerocene (wazy matter), which burns as brightly as camphene, but has no explosive property whatever. It also contains thirty-five gallons of iubricating oil (paraffine), a fatty matter. Also twenty-five pounds weight of paraffine wax, equal to the best candle war. The coke left from the distillation of the Coal is sufficient to supply fuel to the whole manufactory, so that all these substances may be extracted without requiring the aid of any foreign substance for fuel. Altogether, this is looked upon by the members of the Cub as the most remarkable natural substance ever discovered in the earth. The subject leads all reflecting minds to think that it is not improbable that other and still more important discoveries may be made in this wonderfully progressive age, in the development of science and discovery of the buried riches of the earth.

The Juice of the Prickiy Pear for Dyeing.—Judge

The Juice of the Prickly Pear for Dyeing .- Judge Mries read a paper from The Journal of the Society of Arts, London, showing that the juice of the prickly pear, or cactus, is almost equal to cochineal for the purpose of dyeing, and is also better adapted for making wine, on the "honest" principle, than logwood, or any other article used in the "singyards" of Farring. any other article used in the "pinegaris" of Farring-don street, Leadenhall street, or even the finest pro-ductions of Billingsgate and Fishstreet Hill! The co-chineal insect, from which the article which bears its name is obtained, lives upon the juice of the cactus leaf; the only difference in the proposed operation is to make the extract by direct and artificial means from the plant, instead of by the more circuitous process of obtaining it from the inscot. The juice has been successfully applied to confectionery, blanc-mange, jellies, and other preparations for the table, to which it imparts a beautiful color, making them not only "good

for food, but pleasant to the sight." Science, in reversing the secrets of nature, is pointing out in vari-rious ways the advantage of taking extracts direct from vegetable substances, as more economical than by the circuit of animal elimination—just as gutta-percha and India-rubber is superseding, in many in-stances, the ese of leather and other animal sub-

ances. Horse Chestnuts for Human Food -Judge Maios Horse Chestnuts for Human Food.—Judge Maios also read a paper he had translated from La Presse, which showed that by a thorough washing in pure water the starch of the horse elestnut becomes free from acridity and is a more valuable article than the charch of wheat—abanching more water. It is found that the horse chestnut contains more starch than the potato. Thirty-five per cent of the chestnut flour maxed with wheat flour, produces excellent break. This has a ignited a new and important branch of manufacture in France, as the horse chestnut is there a large crop.

has persevered in the introduction to this country of the Shawl-Goat, which is found to thrive well on the uplands of America, which are now lying unproductive of any good to the people. He considered that if Government would encourage such enterprizes it would be doing much more good than by piling up acts upon acts of legislation to which the people paid but little regard. The Shawl-Goat has hair eignteen

acts upon acts of legislation to which the people paid but little regard. The Shawl-Goat has hair eighteen inches long, as fine and glossy as silk, and well adapted for the manufacture of the most beautiful adapted for the manufacture of the most beautiful and useful creatures, with which to enliven the landscapes of our country, and after ornamenting our hills and valleys they could be used to clothe and decorate the fair daughters of our great Republic.

The Production of Wool.—Judge Meios read from The London Journal of Arts, of August 31, 1855, a statement that it has been ascertained by actual experiment in feeding sheep that 1,000 lbs. of raw potatoes, with salt, will produce 61 lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of wheat, raw, will produce 16 lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of rye, with salt, will produce 14 lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of rye, with salt, will produce 12; lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of pre, without salt, will produce 12; lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of poess will produce 16; lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of poess will produce 16; lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of poess will produce 16; lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of poess will produce 16; lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of poess will produce 10 lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of poess will produce 10 lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of the poess will produce 10 lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of the poess will produce 10 lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of the poess will produce 10 lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of the poess will produce 10 lbs. of wool; 1,000 lbs. of buckwhest will produce 10 lbs. of wool. Winter Feeding of Stock—Dr. Waterburg made some general remarks on this subject, promising some useful statistics at a future day. He observed that there was a remarkable effect produced in animals by

useful statistics at a future day. He observed that there was a remarkable effect produced in animals by the character of the material on which they feed. He considered that, for the want of attention to this sub-

considered that, for the want of attention to this subject, many animals, like men, became subject to dyspepsia. His statistics would show that this might be prevented by a proper regulation of their diet. Animals were subject to as complex a physiology as man, and the same principles will apply to both.

Mr. JUDD made some inquiries as to which would be the most economical article of food for horses; hay at \$20 a tun, or corn at \$1 a bushel? Some successful farmers had adopted the plan of keeping animals exposed to the air even in winter, with but little sucter beside the leafless groves; but he could not believe that their success was owing to such a practice. There that their success was owing to such a practice. There

ter beside the leaness groves; but he could not believe that their success was owing to such a practice. There would be great economy in food if the animals were kept warm. He did not know but it would pay a farmer to keep his sheep-pens warm with stoves even, as so much less food would be consumed. The food is mostly required for heating purposes.

Mr. CLAFF was of opinion, from very long experience, that it was very bad policy to keep animals closed up in houses. It was true it would deprive them of a good appetite, but it would lessen their health, which was more important than economy in food. If they needed to be kept warm in winter, he preferred clothing them in jackets.

After some debate, in which Dr. WATERBURY expressed his opinion that oats were the best feed for horses when brisk work is required, while for slow farm work cora was equally good.

Mr. Judd moved that a Committee be appointed with Dr. Waterbury as chairman, to inquire into the

with Dr. Waterbury as chairman, to inquire into the relative value of hay, out straw, outs, corn, barley and shorts or fine bran; also the proportions in which any of these may be most advantageously mixed, and report to the next meeting of the clab.

The resolution was agreed to and Dr. Waterbury, and Messrs. Field and Capp were appointed the Committee.

mittee.

Lawton Blackberry Wine.—Judge Meios presented
a bottle of Lawton blackberry wine which had been
sent to the club as the manufacture of Mrs. Lawton. It

a bottle of Lawton blackberry wine which had been sent to the club as the manufacture of Mrs. Lawton. It was tasted all round and universally praised. It was alleged to be "nothing but the pure juice of the "berry," but some who tasted considered that "some thing stronger was there."

Isabella Wine.—A specimen bottle of Isabella grape wine from Mr. Couzzens of Dobbs's Ferry, was also tasted and considered good sone wine, but too sour to tempt to a second glass. If all wines possessed this excellent quality of satisfying with the first taste, there would be a world of misery avoided.

Apples.—Mr. Waring presented specimens of Peck's Pleasant apples, which are good and sound, with very fine flavor at the present senson.

Egyptian Cariositics.—Dr. DECK exhibited a very singular specimen of a flower for which no place in natural history has yet been assigned. The doctor had had it nine years and exhibited it a thousand times by dipping it into water for a few minutes, when it gradually expands or blossoms. It is, when open, about one inch in diameter. Its age is unknown. It was presented to the doctor for his medical services in Fgypt, by an Arab who asserted that he had taken it from the breast of an Egyptian manung, a femile high-priest, and it was considered a great rarity. It has the appearance in its dry state of a small dry poppy hoad, but when expanded by soaking in water it has the appearance of a beautifully radiated starry flower, resembling the crysanthenum. It was carefully examined by the many naturalists present, but all failed to discover its proper classification; so it still remains "a flower without a name." The quesfully examined by the many naturalists present, but all failed to discover its proper classification; so it still remains "a flower without a name." The question of christening it did not come up, although ablations were performed several times. The doctor also exhibited some curious specimens of Egyptian insects and reptifies preserved in spirits. One is a frog no larger than could be covered by a shilling.

The subject of windmills for farm purposes was postponed till next meeting by request of Mr. Waring.

The report of the Committee on Long Island lands and an account of the visit of the Club to Mr. Wilson's farm at Deernark have been sent to Albany for

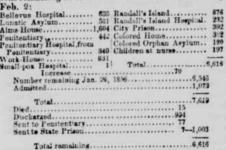
son's farm at Deerpark have been sent to Albany for publication in the State documents.

Adjourned till the third monday in February.

GOVERNORS OF THE ALMS-HOUSE. GOVERNORS OF THE ALMS-HOUSE.

The regular weekly meeting of the Governors of the Alms-House was held at their rooms yesterday afternoon. Present—Govs. Draper, Smith, Dake, Dugro, Townsend, Bell, Tiemann, Gunther, and Oliver.

The requisitions show the following number of porasons remaining in the institutions for the week ending



A communication was received from the Resident

A communication was received from the Resident Physician of the Lunatic Asylum, is reference to the transfer of patients from other departments.

At the suggestion of Gov. Dure, the reading of this communication was stopped, apparently with a view of preventing it from being made public.

A communication was received from Controller Flagg, in reference to the special advance of \$125,000 to the Governors under a resolution of December, 1854. That advance was made under the expectation that the treasury would be reimbursed from the appropriations of 1855, or subsequently. He states that the only mode for obtaining this sum is by an application to the Legislature for a special act authorizing the Supervisors to assess the amount. The subject was referred to the Finance Committee.

Gov. Townsend moved that a Special Committee

referred to the Finance Committee.

Gov. Townsend moved that a Special Committee be appointed to frame such laws or amendments as may be deemed expecient, and to be presented to the Legislature for action. The motion was adopted, and Govs. Townseed, Bell and Smith were appointed, and

NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The regular Monthly Meeting of the New-York His torical Society was held last evening at the University. In the absence of the President, (the Hon. Luther Bradish.) the first Vice-President, the Rev. Dr. Da WITT presided.

After the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, the Librarian reported additional donations to the Library. Among the donations was one re-ceived through Mr. Bancroft—the original letter of Theodoric Bland to Thomas Jefferson on the subject of Arnold's treason.

From Mr. J. A. de Zwaan of Hague copies of some valuable documents relative to the early difficulties of

rounally a decouments relative to the early difficulties of Renesclaerwick were received.

After the transaction of some further unimortant business, the President introduced Mr. Hanar C. Van Sobaaux of Manlius, N. Y., who proceeded to

read the paper of the evening on
THE LIFE AND TIMES OF EGBERY BENSON.
The paper first adverted to the fact of his being the

first Attorney-General of this State, a Member of the first Federal Congress, a Judge of the Supreme Court, a Judge of the United States Court, a Commissioner treating with the Indians, a Commissioner to settle the boundary line between Massachusetts and New-York, with Alexander Hamilton, the only representatives from New-York at the Commercial Convention at Anapolis, a President of the Historical Society, and other public events. His intimacy with the Van Solaacks was a matter well known. To one of them, in 1775, he wrote, that "If this country stood@firm our "people need not fear Lord North, or all the lords "and devils on earth." He was a constomed to call his visits to Kinderhook in Winter his Arctic voyages. It was much to be regretted that Judge Benson had left no manuscripts, as he had no family, and was frequently changing his residence. He frequently made a coplots use of Latin words in his English. Instances of this were given by the speaker. He was a good

a copious use of Latin words in his English. Instances of this were given by the speaker. He was a good Latin scholar. An extract from a letter of Benson's was read, which showed him to have been extremely desirons of doing away with negro Slavery. Of Judge Benson's humor, numerous instances were given. On one occasion, in 1799, he forwarded a fish by the stage-coach to Henry Van Schagek, to which was attached a letter under the frank of Theodore, Sedawick, with

coach to Henry Van Schaack, to which was attached a letter under the frank of Theodore Sedgwick, with an inscription, "Reward for personal merit—next year "the loaf will come." He also criticised in a humorous manner the "Wife" of Washington Irving. As late as 1825 and 1829 he wrote for the journals of the day! the signature of A. B. He was at this last date over eighty-three years of age. The Speaker visited Judge Benson in 1832, at the residence of Mr. Van Tine, in Jamaica, Long Island, where he was then residing. He there resided until his death, the following year—having survived his friend John Jay four years. The lecturer closed his paper by reading the obitnary, written by Charles King, LL.D., and which appeared in The New York American of that day.

day.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Van Sohaack for his valuable paper.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

A regular meeting of the Board was held vesterday afternoon, the Vice-President in the Chair. The Teachers' Committee sent in a communication in favor of free books, which was referred to accept a committee on the subject. The Committee on School Books reported a number of text-books, which were adopted for the use of the schools. After which the Board additional of the schools.

The Board met yesterday afternoon, the President in the chair. The Report of the Superintendents of the Poor for the month ending January 31st, was presented, from which it appears that the aggregate amounts expended from August 1st, 1855, to February 1st, 1856,

BROOKLYN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

The report was referred to the Committee on Accounts.

The sum of \$22,000 was appropriated to account of Superintendents of the Poor.

A communication from the architects of the new Penitentiary was received, stating that the building was in a state of forwardness, and that an additional sum of \$50,000 was required to complete it. The cost thus far has been \$130,010.

Cost thus far has been \$130,010.

A petition, numerously signed, was presented calling for the enactment of a law relative to the taking up of oysters and other shell-fish in the waters of the county. Subject referred to a special committee.

Some other routine business was transacted and the Board adjuorned.

MARINE AFFAIRS.

THE SCHOONER THOMAS LEVERING.

We recently published a report of the loss of this vessel in Chesapeake Bay, with all her crew and passengers-fourteen persons. On the 21st ult, the wreck was boarded by some persons from the shore, and the bodies of Mrs. Owen and five of her children were recovered and interred in one grave at Onancock, Va. It is supposed that Mr. Owen, the Messrs. Mathews (passengers) and the crew, five in number, were frozen to death while on the wreck.

THE BRIG SAFFORD.

The brig W. H. Safford, which sank on the morning of the 4th inst, near the Navy Yard, drifted in the afternoon of the same day with the returning tide alongside the Gas-House Wharf. Her foretonmasthead had been out off by the ice, which, with all above, was dragging in the tide by the rigging. The Coroner of the district had taken charge of the vessel as wreckmaster and made her fast to the wharf. None of the bodies of those who were drowned have been recovered. It is most likely that they drifted down with the ebb tide. The Coroner went yester-day afternoon to negotiate with Mr. Bishop for his tide the river is quite free from ice, and, as the vessel is partially affoat, there will be no difficulty in bringing the derrick and attaching it to her. A considerable portion of her cargo being composed of sugar, it would seen dissolve, and it is thought she would then come to the surface without assistance.

w.York and Havre line, left on Monday morning at 8 o'clock on her trial trip, from the East River to the point of the Hook. She was compelled to make her way through fields of floating ice, both the Upper and Lower Bay being almost closed with ice of great thickness. The result of her trip we are unable to state, as we were not on board. The Fulton is of the same size as the Arago, with double oscillating eu-gines of equal power. She will take her place in the line, leaving here on the 9th inst, under command of Capt. Wotten, formerly of the steamship Franklin.

W. H. Webb will launch to-day, at 9 o'clock a. m., from the foot of Sixth street, East River, the ship John H. Elliott, 1,200 tuns, of Messes, Post, Smith & Co.'s Antwerp line of packets.

From The Alta California of Jan. 3 we learn that the bark Emily Banning arrived at Acapulco on the 24th December for supplies. She is engaged in pearl fishing and wrecking, and had been successful, as she had on board \$20,000 worth of old silver and pearls. Until Dec. 12 she was engaged in surveying the pearl grounds from Panama to Acapulco, to determine the best localities for future operations, having arrived at the Bay of Panama in the latter part of October. The machinery used on board the Emily Banning is the "Nautilus" machine, owned by the Nautilus Submarine Company of this city-the expedition belonging to the Wilmington Pearl-Fishing Company.

THE ICE.

The steamship James Adger, arrived at this port last evening from Charleston, reports that between the Capes of Delaware and Barnegat, in fifteen fathoms water, she passed through fields of ice extending as far as the eye could reach. She was compelled to land her passengers at the Cunard Dock, Jersey City, the ice being so thick in the river she could not get to

her own dock at this city, THE HOMICIDE AT THE BARKER HOUSE INVESTIGATION BEFORE CORONER RED-DING AND A JURY.

FOURTH BAY, TUESDAY, Feb. 5. The investigation into the circumstances of the death of Michael McLaughlin was continued in the Supreme Court room of the Brooklyn City Hall yesterday, and as on previous occasions, there was a large attendance. The subjoined is a summary of the evidence, and as will be seen, nothing substantially different from what has heretofore been testified to

M. N. Croft. of No. 23 Norfolk street, New-York,

M. N. Croft, of No. 23 Norfolk street, New-York, testified to coming to the Barker House in a sleigh, and going in saw a disturbance, and two men down; he went out, and returning for a slove he had dropped, saw only one man on the floor; he could identify no one; stayed but a few moments. Charles Knowsley of Union street, above Hamilton avenue, testifies to being in the bar-room of the Barker House at the time of the affray, and described the scene with preclaises, and mainly corroborative of the evidence of William P. Barrett, given yesterday; he saw the decessed prostrate on the floor, and went to examine his wounds, thinking he had been bitten by a dog; did not see the knife-wound and did not know he had been stabled until shortly afterward; saw James Barker get a stab from the bar and strike Murphy and relt a dog; saw him strike no one else; failed to lidentify the knife produced, and saw no one use a knife that night.

Orson Salebury, a boarder at the Barker House, testified to the affray but could recognize no particular persons caused in it; saw no knife used by any one.

Lewis B. Hodge of No. 366 Hicks street, testified that he came to the Barker House after the affray was over, and as who had the same to the Barker House after the affray was over, and as the floor is the same to the Barker House after the affray was over, and as the floor is a floor of the bard some one outside say that he saw knives used but did not know who he was. George L. Price of Ne. 17 Woodhull street, testified

to being present during the affray, and substantially corr-ated the other witnesses as to the origin of the fight, any George W. Barker go in behind the counter with a c-bot water to mix which; when the fight commesc-sted the cup on the counter and came out, mixing in wit-perties; he saw no knife in his hand, and did not think he c-bave had one without his seeing it.

are hed one without his seeing it.

The inquest was then adjourned till to-day 2 o'clock p. m. No person has as yet been identified as having

THE CENTRAL-PARK SUSTAINED.

CONFIRMATION OF THE COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

The following opinion was delivered yesterday mornng by Judge Harris with respect to the motion made by Mr. Dilion, Counsel for the Corporation, asking for the confirmation of the Commissioners' Report for taking the land and assessing the taxes necessary for laying out the great Central-Park:

OPINION.

In the matter of the application of the Mayor, &c., of the City of New-York, relative to the opening and laying out of a Public Place between Fifty-minth and One-hundred and sixth streets, and the Fifth and Eighth avenues, in the City of New-York. BY THE COURT-HARRIS, J .- Every citizen holds is property subject to the wants of the Government.

This is an invariable condition of society. If money is required, it is taken by taxation; if property, by the right of eminent domain. Such power is a necessary neident of sovereignty. Its exercise, especially in a country like ours, whose growth and expansion is a constant surprise even to ourselves, is often indispen-The public interests could not be sufficiently ad-

vanced without it. Individuals are not to be permitted to interpose their will or caprice, or even their own self-interest, to thwart useful improvement, or prevent the development of great public advantages. Whether or not the public exigency requires that

noney shall be raised by a tax, or property shall be taken for public use, is a question referred to the sov-ereign will of the State, as expressed by legislative authority. It is enough that the public good demands it. Of this question the Legislature are the exclusive judges. It is no more the province of the judicial power to determine whether private property is required for public use, than it is to inquire whether the public exigency requires that money should be raised ov a tax.

he argument of this case, that this power can only e rightfully exercised in cases of absolute necessity. A strict application of such a principle would com-A strict application of such a principle would completely annihilate the power. It would not be easy to state a case in which it would be absolutely necessary to take private property for public use. But the term, when applied to this subject, has no such restricted meaning. If, in the judgment of the Legislature, the public convenience requires that the property of individuals should be taken from them and devoted to the public use, this constitutes a sufficient legal necessity to authorize the exercise of this power. The mode in which this power is to be exercised is

The mode in which this power is to be exercised is sufficiently guarded to protect the citizen against injustice. He is protected in the enjoyment of his property, unless the public needs it. For this protection he pays an equivalent in taxes. If the public need his property he must surrender it, but then only, spon being paid a fair equivalent in money. By his taxes he pays no more than his just share for the benefits of government. When he gives up his property, he contributes so much more, and is entitled to adequate compensation. He sells his property to the public, involuntarily, it is true, but for a price fixed by fair appraisal. appraisal.
It is in this way that, from the very beginning of

our Government, property has been obtained for pub-lic improvements, such as turnpike roads, canals, rail-roads, and other kindred objects. In many cases the roads, and other kindred objects. In many cases the application has had its origin in private enterprise, and for private gain; but it has always been deemed enough to justify the exercise of the power, that the enterprise would result in public utility.

By an act of the Legislature relating to this subject, passed in July, 1853, it was dealered to the subject,

passed in July, 1853, it was declared that the tract of land mentioned in the title of this proceeding should land mentioned in the title of this proceeding should be "a public place," in the same manner as if the same had been laid out by the Commissioners appointed in 1807 for the purpose of laying out streets, &c., in the City of New-York, and the Corporation of New-York were authorized to take the land for public use, as and for a public square. The act provided for the appointment of five Commissioners of Estimate and Assessment, and made the existing laws relative to the law into our authorized multiple squares and places.

the appointment of two Commensions of relative to the laying out and taking public squares and places in the City of New-York applicable to the proceeding. Of the wisdom or expediency of the measure, it is not my province on this occasion to speak. It is enough that the Legislature have declared that it was required by the public interest, and for the public onvenience. But I may, perhaps, allow myself here to say, that if the apprehensions of the most distrustful should be realized, the enterprise cannot prove very disastrons or even unprofitable. The most increations will not doorst, that should the generation who, half a century hence, will possess this American metropolis—then, perhaps, the metropolis of the world—thick it expedient to windraw this tract of land from the uses to which it is now to be devoted, it might then be made to produce a revenue exceeding, by many times, the amount of the present expenditure.

Commissioners were appointed pursuant to the act in November, 1933. Of the content times of this Commission, and the fidelity with which it has discharged its important tracts, all the parties who have appeared upon this hearing have borne their unqualified and emphatic testimony. Nearly two years were occupied by the Commissioners in preparing their appraisal and

coupled by the Commissioners in proparing their appraisal and assessments. On the fourth of October last, the result was submitted to the public, and opportunity was given to present objections. Parties dissatisfied with the decisions of the Commissioners were he and before them and, so far as objections were reviewed, and, upon such review, such corrections made as were decined out by the Commissioners.

presented, the decisions of the Commissioners were reviewed, and, upon such review, such corrections made as were decemed just by the Commissioners.

The result is now presented to this Court in the Report of the Commissioners. The only question now to be determined is, whether the Report shall be confirmed, or whether it contains such errors as require that it should be referred back to the same or other Commissioners for reconsideration. This is the extent of the power vested in the Court upon this proceeding. I am to consider, therefore, the reasons urged against the confirmation of the Report. These grounds of objection may generally be divided into two classes: First, those presented by the owners of property assessed to be benefit to be derived from the improvement; and secondly, those presented by the owners of property assessed for benefit to be derived from the improvement. Each will require a separate consideration.

The number of city lots taken for the improvement is about 7,500, for which the Commissioners have awarded upward of \$5,00,100. Of the owners of these lots but about one in forty have appeared to object to the award. The very fact that thirty-into out of every forty owners of the large tract of land embraced in this proceeding have not deemed it for their interest to object to the report, certainly furnishes very satisfactory evidence that the Commissioners have, with cultions two each an amount of property.

The difficulty of their work wear-visiently very much increased by the fact that the lots to be appraised by them were, for the most pert, wholly unproductive. Their visites were that pres-

commissioners. I am average not expected between that, in a few instances, an inadequate price hastact been allowed.

Among the most carnest of those who oppose the confirmation of the report, are some who in December, 1852, purchased at a public sale by the Corporation of New York, a portlen of the same lots—none taken entirely soft this improvement. I sin entirely satisfied that the prices but upon that sale were generally for above any reasonable appraisal of the lots. The sale amounted to nearly \$800,000. Of the purchases, nearly half shandoned their bids before paying anything; others paid their ten per cent upon the sale, but never consummated their purchase, preferring rather to forfelt what they had paid than to pay the balance of the purchase money for the land. It was also stated, upon the hearing, that a large amonn of the purchase money had been remitted to the purchasers by the Corporation. The appraisal of these lets by the Commissioners as, I think, about 50 per cent below the prices bid at the Corporation sale. In some instances the award is less than the amount now due to the Corporation open the borde and mortrages executed to secure a part only of the purchase money. To such purchaser the part of the Commissioners are severe and sujust. It was with some degree of plansibility that they insisted that having paid these prices to the Corporation was evere and sujust. It was with some degree of plansibility that they insisted that having paid these prices to the Corporation was evere and sujust. But it is everth what it received upon its sale.

But it is obvious that the Commissioners could adopt no such

is should not be heard to deny that it is worth what it received upon its vale.

But it is obvious that the Commissioners could adopt no such rule of discrimination. It was their single duty to fix what they believed to be the present real value of each lot taken without regard to the amount it might have cost its owner, or the source from which he derived his title—what may be the equitable relations between these purchasers and the corporation, when the lots shall be taken, I need not now consider. der. It may well be that in some instances the Commissioners may

It may well be that in some instances the Commissioners may have erred in their judgment as to the value of property taken for this great improvement. It would, indeed, be emprising if they had not. But I am not at liberty to deep the motion to confirm their report upon the more apprehension that they may have this erred. They have had no opportunity of viewing the premises. They may have obtained the opinious of juddmens and well-informed men on the subject, and during the two years they have had the subject before them may have collected information from many sources which has enlightened their judgment, and enabled them at least to make a just estimate of the value of each of the numerous lots embraced in their report. To allow their judgment, thus deliberately and intelligently formed, to be overcome by the opinions of interested parties, or even the opinions of distincerated witnesses, the value of whose opinions the Court has no means of testing, would be a manifest perversion of the object of the Legislature in providing for this review of the proceedings of the Commissioners. If, in the distance of their duty, the Commissioners have proceeded in the manner prescribed by law, and have violated no legst principle in making their awards, the Court must be satisfied almost to a demonstration that they have materially erred upon questions for me now to consider the objections which have large the commissioners for the continued that any such error has been committed.

It remains for me now to consider the objections which have

for reconsideration. I am not convinced that any such error has been committed.

It remains for me now to consider the objections which have been used against the report by those whose property has been ancessed for benefit. By the act relative to public squares and places in the Gity of New York, passed April 11, 1615, which by

the act of 1853 was made applicable to this proceeding the Commissioners were required, after having made their award of damages to the owners of property to be taken, to proceed to make a just and equitable assessment of the value of the benefit and advants go of the contemplated improvement upon the owners of other lands lying without the imits of the improvement, to the extent of such benefit. It was objected upon the

and advants go of the contemplated improvement upon the converse of other lands lying without the imits of the improvement, to the extant of such benefit. It was objected upon the hearing that, in making these assessments, the Commissionans could go beyond the lands fronting upon the proposed public your eor place, and those lying which half the distance of the next street or are muc, but in the fourth section of the use of 1813 it was expressly declared that upon the opening of a public square or place, the Commissioners shall not be confined in their astimate and assessment of benefits to any limit or limits whatever.

By the 7th section of an act in relation to the collection of assessments, &c., passed May 14, 1849, it is declared that Commissioners for making estimates and assessments for any improvement authorized by law, shall in no case assess any house, lot, improved or unimproved land, more than one half the value thereof, as valued by the Assessment for benefits. It is alleged, and no doubt with truth, that the lands in the immediate neighborhood of the proposed square, and which are confessedly to be most housefitted by the improvement, being vasant and unproductive, had been valued by the different Ward Assessor at prices for below their value, and it some Wards at prices relatively below the prices in other Wards. The consequence of this restriction upon the power of the Commissioners has been in many instances to relieve the owners of lots most business have been in many instances to relieve the owners of lot most business has been been been been the most and assessment from the payment of an assessment equal to the extent of such bonefit, and thus reduce the aggregate amount of the assessments from the payment of an assessment equal to the extent of such bonefit, and thus reduce the aggregate amount of the sessessments. The whole amount assessment equal to the extent of such bonefit, and thus reduce the aggregate mount of the property for benefit is about 4.150 0.0. The house of the commissioner

deprived of the benefits contemplated. Practically they do receive such benefits. The value of their lands is increased by the improvement, and thus they receive an equivalent for the assessment they are required to pay. It may be that, in the increase of the Counsel who presented this objection, "the "assessment of land for benefit limplies a covenant for the continuous of that benefit implies a covenant for the continuous of the therefit." But if so, the possibility that the benefit may be discentiated does not render the assessment for compensation if the continuous should happen.

A five objections of a more general character deserve to be briefly nothered. Danuages are awarded to the Corporation itself for lots included within the limits of the square to the amount of about 8-80,000. It is said that by an ordinance of the Common Council, passed in 1845, all the property of the Corporation, including these lots was sacredly piedged for the payment of the funded debt of the city, and that the Corporation have no right now to divert the lots from this object and devote them to the purpose proposed. It may well be that the creditors of the price of these lots in some way secured for their hencells, but whether they have or not, it is a sufficient answer to this objection to say that it is a question which in no way concerns these who oppose the confirmation of this report.

The same answer applies, too, to the objection that the public property, such as the Arsenal, the Croton Reservoir and framation-square, have not been assessed. It is probable that these lands were not assessed for the reason that, on account of the purposes to which thay were devoted, they would not be benefitted by the contemplated improvement. But whether the benefit to the object that for any reason these have been assessed, it is also objected that the Commissioners had no right, is making their award, to declare that the amount due the Corporation for the award of the same lots. This may be so but this declaration in the report is ent

the authority of the Commissioners to set off one debt against another.

An objection is now taken, for the first time, to the validity of the appointment of the Cemmissioners. The order for the appointment was made by Mr. Justice Mitchell, and it is new said that he is a relative to one of the parties assessed for benefit. The objection is unternable. Judge Mitchell might not new sit to hear this motion for confirmation. The parties assessed for benefit are now parties to the proceeding. But when he entertained the motion for the appointment of Commissionars, they were not, and of course he was not legally disqualified. The fact that the relative has been brought within the range of assessment, is alone sufficient to show that the objection is altogether technical.

Again, it is objected that Mr. Brady, one of the Commissionars, is a brother to two of the owners of lots taken for the improvement, to whom damages have been awarded. This might have furnished a proper ground of objection to be addressed to the discretionary power of the Court, upon the appointment of the Commissioners, but if in no way affects the validity of the

Mr. Mott, who argued against the report, rose im-uediately after the Judge had concluded the above

mediately after the Judge had concluded the above opinion, and began to read certain exceptions to Judge liarris's decision, who interrupted him by asking for what purpose they were intended.

Mr. Mott—I am aware there is no appeal to the Court of Appeals, but I believe there is one to the General Term.

Judge Harris—There can certainly be no appeal in

Mr. Dillon—The statute provides that the decision of your Henor is final, and even if there was a right of appeal in this case, this is not the tribunal to which he should be addressed. I cannot conceive why the time of this Court should be taken up in hearing matters in which this Court can have nothing it do.

of this Court should be taken up in hearing matters in which this Court can have nothing to do.

Mr. Mott—I not only desire to read these exceptions, but I shall request that they be placed on file,

Judge Harris (to Mr. Mott)—If it will please or bea-cit you to read that paper, you may do so; I shall not, however, order it to be placed on file, or take any action whatever moon it.

however, order it to be placed on file, or take any action whatever upon it.

Mr. Mott then proceeded to read his exceptions amid
considerable confusion and noise, arising from the
crowd that were assembled in the Court-room.

After he had concluded, Mr. Dillon simply replied.

I give notice that I shall dismiss that appeal instan-

Assistance for Street-Crossers .- Since Mayor Wood, if he would, can bring us no relief for the soles of our weary feet as we wade to and from our places

CITY ITEMS.

of business, and as only Councilmen, and the still more honorable gentlemen who are invested with Aldermanie powers, can afford to use carriages, it behooves every good citizen to offer such plans for the public relief he thinks feasible. If one were to judge from appearances only, he would be led to believe that we had had a sudden importation of very short legged horses, and that each person who was bold enough to attempt the passage of that frozen imitation of corn-meal, which is ounded on either side of its mass by the curb-stones, had suffered an amputation of his legs at the knees. We venture to say that such a thing as a horse hoof a a human instep has not been seen in the middle of the street for several weeks. Horses pant and tug at the monster sleighs, now plunging down some steep dealivity of ice into the quiescent mass of dirty suow lying at its base, and anon ascend the opposite hight, as some ocean steamer rises and descends upon the tide of a rolling wave; men stand at the curb, each despairing glances upon the work before them, and accomplish the transit by a series of grasslopper-like leaps, that land them, breathloss, upon the icy side-walk on the opposite side. To cross the streets no "Russian heel-checks" are sufficient aid; no street sweeps can lend adequate assistances we must have some helps to keep us above the snow, as it cannot be removed; we must go to the moun if it foolishly refuses to come to us. Now our propesition is this: Let some influential good citizens prevail spon the Board of Aldermen to send Mr. Branch, or a brother twig from the same tree, to that part of Canada where snow-shoes are used, seek out two or three hundred expert manufacturers of the article, and ercence them in temporary board shanties at the lower end of the Park, where they might ply their trade,

night and day, until they, and such of our metropol-tan bootmakers as could learn the art, could supply all applicants at a fair advance upon cost. Then how cesy would it not be for us to cross the streets to and fro, up and down, as much as we could desire! The fet man from the Museum, and all fat men from pai-vate houses, could be upborn on the framework under